

RE: WSHDC-10373 - Readout: WSHDC-DHOM Speaks with Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Michigan)

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Date: Fri, 11 Feb 2022 16:32:53 +0000
Attachments: Re: WSHDC-10373 - Readout: WSHDC-DHOM Speaks with Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Michigan) (66.05 kB)

FYI, This one was shared last night.

From: Vanderloo, Caroline -NGM <Caroline.Vanderloo@international.gc.ca>
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Subject: WSHDC-10373 - Readout: WSHDC-DHOM Speaks with Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Michigan)

Please find below a report that has been NGM-approved to share.

From: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2022 9:45 PM
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Subject: WSHDC-10373 - Readout: WSHDC-DHOM Speaks with Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Michigan)

On February 10, 2022, WSHDC-DHOM/Loken spoke with Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI-05) to discuss the situation at the border. Rep. Kildee, whose district includes the city of Flint (roughly 100 km from the Ambassador Bridge), said he requested the call to discuss ways in which he could help resolve the situation. The conversation was constructive and collaborative, and the call lasted its scheduled 15 minutes. Key takeaways:

- **Overview of situation:** DHOM provided the congressman with an overview of the current situation at the border, underscoring that Canadian authorities across multiple parts of the government are working to reopen the border as quickly as possible. He emphasized the shared nature of the challenge—referencing American support, including through funding, for the convoys in Canada—and the many ways in which Canadian and American officials are working together to prevent the situation from worsening. DHOM described operational stopgap efforts between CBSA and CBP to increase capacity at alternative ports of entry like the Detroit-Windsor tunnel and the Blue Water Bridge. Highlighting cooperation between the Canadian government and the Biden Administration, DHOM mentioned that TC Minister

Alghabra and Secretary Buttigieg spoke earlier today, and that PS Minister Mendicino and Secretary Mayorkas also plan on speaking. Additionally, DHOM explained that efforts are underway to reopen the Ambassador Bridge at the municipal level, with Windsor Mayor Dilkens having requested a court injunction that would allow the city to remove anyone who does not leave voluntarily. Kildee seemed to appreciate the close cooperation between Canadian and American officials, and showed interest in how Mayor Dilkens' approach might play out.

- **Coordination on messaging:** Rep. Kildee offered to assist with solving the problem at the Ambassador Bridge crossing. He underscored the need for officials on both sides to maintain consistent messaging in order to effectively counter the misinformation that is being propagated. He alluded to unhelpful comments made by some Members of Congress regarding the convoys. The congressman suggested that the most effective way to frame our messaging is to point out that those who are most affected by the convoys are working-class families who are in no way responsible for the mandates being protested.

DHOM thanked the congressman for his offer to assist and expressed appreciation for Kildee's recognition of the crossing's importance. He noted that the protests are evidently about more than just vaccine mandates for truckers, and agreed with the importance of having as many voices as possible—including Kildee's—speak to how detrimental the blockades are to both countries.

- **Potential for protests to spread:** The congressman was interested in hearing what the Embassy knew about the potential for protests to intensify and expand to other ports of entry. DHOM explained that, while the blockade at the Ambassador Bridge is by far the most significant, similar protests have already been observed at the Sweet Grass-Coutts crossing along the Montana-Alberta border, as well as the Emerson crossing that connects Manitoba with North Dakota. DHOM also shared that leaflets have been circulating about a convoy on the Buffalo side of the Peace Bridge. He went on to note that Canadian and American agencies are continually sharing information as the situation evolves.
- **Next steps:** DHOM and Rep. Kildee agreed to maintain open lines of communication, noting the close relationship that already exist between WSHDC and Kildee's office.

Drafted: WSHDC/Maron

Approved: WSHDC/DHOM Loken

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